24. Of the amount of Rs. 8,359 charged in the Forest accounts against "cost of settlements, compensation for lands and rights," Rs. 843 were spent in the payment of compensation; and the remaining sum Rs. 7,516 exhibits the cost of establishments of Forest Settlement Officers, and is distributed thus :—

No.	Division.	Settlements.				Cost.			
		Completed.		Progressing.		Salaries.	Travelling Allowances.	Contingencies.	Total.
		Sq. m.	Acres.	Sq. m.	Acres.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	East Khándesh .	...	18	4	228	} 2,851	690	312	3,853
2	West do. ...	...	...	4	356				
3	Násik	...	...	...	22	...	...	...	...
4	Ahmednagar ...	...	72	...	37	266	40	25	331
5	Poona	...	33	1	508	1,220	323	297	1,840
6	Sátára	9	414	...	160	1,092	110	290	1,492
7	Sholápur ...	...	97	...	127	...	...	...	...
	Total ...	9	634	11	158	5,429	1,163	924	7,516

25. The Forest Settlement Officers were also engaged upon compiling forest registers giving the descriptions of boundaries of reserved and protected forests according to the Revision Survey, in English in Form No. 1 of the Forest Department Code, and in the Vernacular in Village Form No. I-A.

(iii)—DEMARCATION.

26. The scarcity of, and high prices that ruled the supply of, food-grains in the Deccan, and the consequent great distress that prevailed among the lower classes, and particularly in the poorer villages neighbouring the Syhádris, suggested the desirability of pushing on vigorously the work of demarcating the boundaries of the forests with special forest boundary-marks to be the outward visible sign of forest reservation, as a quasi-relief measure; and on the proposals being approved, and funds sanctioned, by Government, work was started early in March 1897, and was carried on up to the 15th of June 1897. The quantity of work performed in demarcation during the year as compared with that of the year preceding can be seen in the following table :—

No.	Division.	1895-96.					1896-97.				
		Length of Boundaries in miles.	Number of special Boundary-marks.			Total Cost.	Length of Boundaries in miles.	Number of special Boundary-marks.			Total Cost.
			Large.	Small.	Total.			Large.	Small.	Total.	
						Rs.					Rs.
1	East Khándesh .	3	22	30	52	41	186	126	360	486	157
2	West do. ...	84	473	598	1,071	751	...	...	436	436	114
3	Násik	242	1,467	4,958	6,425	2,701	220	1,275	3,037	4,312	2,139
4	Ahmednagar ...	215	3,570	7	3,577	1,779	288	4,529	...	4,529	1,981
5	Poona	28	669	69	738	599	408	3,272	10,126	13,398	4,097
6	Sátára	27	...	465	465	179	1,623	809	41,556	42,365	8,327
7	Sholápur ...	70	4	761	765	370	21	33	322	355	102
	Total ...	669	6,205	6,888	13,093	6,420	2,746	10,044	55,837	65,881	16,917

(iv)—FOREST SURVEYS.

27. The operations of the Forest Survey Branch Party No. 17 of the Government of India were confined to the Ahmednagar and Poona Divisions; and the following table exhibits the amount of work effected during the forest year :—

No.	Division.	Triangulation.	Detail Survey.			Total cost.	Remarks.
		4″	4″	8″	16″		
						Rs.	
1	Ahmednagar	161	117·77	96·14	32·90	29,478	
2	Poona	...	16·70	5·62	...	1,878	
	Total ...	161	134·47	101·76	32·90	31,356	

28. The cost rate per square mile of the different scales deduced from the total cost for the survey year compare with those of the preceding year as under :—

1895-96.		1896-97.	
Scale.	Cost rate.	Scale.	Cost rate.
	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.
Triangulation. 8″	3 7 0	.....	... ..
Do. ... 4″	.....	4″	18 0 0
Topography... 4″	61 14 6	4″	91 9 11
Do. ... 8″	93 13 1	8″	112 4 10
Do. ... 16″	130 0 0	16″	156 1 7

29. The outturn and cost of the forest surveys undertaken during the survey year compare with that of the previous year as under :—

Year.	Triangulation.		Topography.						Rate per square mile.		
			4″		8″		16″				
	Area.	Cost.	Area.	Cost.	Area.	Cost.	Area.	Cost.	4″	8″	16″
	Sq.-miles.	Rs.	Sq.-miles.	Rs.	Sq.-miles.	Rs.	Sq.-miles.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1895-96 ...	225	774	218·7	13,539	66·2	6,212	14·7	1,911	61 14 6	93 13 1	130 0 0
1896-97 ...	161	2,899	134·47	12,340	101·76	11,429	32·90	5,135	91 9 11	112 4 10	156 1 7

30. From this it will be seen that the 4″ work is less and the 8″ and 16″ works are greater than that of the year previous; while on the other hand the cost rate per square mile of the different scales greatly exceeds that of 1895-96.

31. The progress made in forest surveys in the Central Circle, up to and including the year of the present report, may be tabulated thus :—

No.	Division.	Area surveyed.		Total.
		Existing Reserved Forest.	Proposed Forest.	
1	Násik	234	...	234
2	Ahmednagar	422	15·43	437·43
3	Poona	523	209·55	732·55
4	Sátára	69	6·99	75·99
5	Sholápur	54	2·12	56·12
	Total ...	1,302	234·09	1,536·09